III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN TIRUPPAPULIYUR TOWN.

SRI N. RAJANGAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the recent outbreak of small-pox in Tiruppapuliyur town in South Arcot-District and the sufferings of the public including children of the town and the steps taken in this regard.

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make the following statement :—

Sporadic cases of small-pox have been occurring in Cuddalore Municipality since August 1964. The Municipal Health Officer, a temporary hand, has been taking necessary action in the matter, but he has not brought the incidence of the epidemic to the notice of the Director of Public Health or the District Health Officer. The Sanitary Inspectors in charge of the infected areas were treating the cases of incidence as Chickenpox not knowing that they were cases of small-pox.

Due to the increase in the incidence, two Assistant, Directors of Public Health inspected the Municipality. They have given necessary instructions to the Sanitary Inspectors to treat the cases as small-pox so that the further spread of the disease is arrested. The service of the Municipal Health Officer have also been terminated. Mass vaccination and re-vaccination under the Small-pox Eradication Programme was launched since November 1964, and this work has been completed by the 28th February 1965. During this period 4,645 primary vaccinations and 61,320 re-vaccinations have been done in the whole Municipality.

Cases of small-pox have been reported even after this period. There are four attacks and no deaths during the week ending 6th March 1965 and three attacks and two deaths in the week ending 13th March 1965. From 14th up to 19th March 1965, two attacks and two deaths have been reported.

In view of the existing situation, the District Health Officer has been instructed to investigate into the reasons for the occurrence of the small-pax cases in the area and take suitable action to appoint additional staff and to vaccinate the people who have escaped vaccination under the Small-pox Eradication Programme and see that the infection is wiped out quickly.

With the intensification of the measures that have been taken under the guidance of the District Health Officer, it is hoped that the situation will be brought under complete control within the next few weeks.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS LAND REFORMS (FIXATION OF CEILING OF LAND) AMENDMENT BILL, 1965

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Land Reforms (Fixation of Ceiling on Land) Amendment Bill, 1965.